



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Border Patrol Agents have busy Tuesday *Seize 1,464 pounds of marijuana in three separate incidents*

DEL RIO, Texas -- Border Patrol Agents from the Del Rio Sector kept busy Tuesday taking 1,464.80 pounds of marijuana valued at \$1,171,840 off the market.

Agents from the Del Rio Station began the day seizing 758.90 pounds of marijuana on Highway 377 North approximately 3 miles from Farm to Market Road 2523. The agents on highway patrol performed an immigration stop of a 2000 Ford F250 pickup truck. While verifying the drivers nationality, the agent smelled an odor consistent with that of marijuana. The agent called in a canine team. The canine alerted to the presence of contraband, at which time a search was made of the vehicle. The search resulted in the discovery of 233 bundles of marijuana, weighing in at 758.90 pounds. The marijuana, valued at \$607,120.00, the driver and the pickup truck were turned over the the Drug Enforcement Agency in Del Rio.

While agents in Del Rio were working one seizure, Border Patrol Agents working at the Highway 57 checkpoint near Eagle Pass seized 144.40 pounds of marijuana. A canine team was working the checkpoint as a 1995 Chevrolet pickup approached. As the vehicle came to a stop, the canine crawled under the truck bed and alerted to the presence of contraband. The vehicle was taken to the Eagle Pass Port of Entry to be X-rayed. A total of 42 packages of marijuana were removed from a hidden compartment along the bottom of the trunk bed. The marijuana, valued at \$115,520, the driver and vehicle were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Agency in Eagle Pass.

Agents from the Carrizo Springs Station seized 561.50 pounds of marijuana on Farm to Market Road 1021 at approximately 10 a.m. Because of heavy rains and local flooding of roads, agents had been assisting with the flow of traffic allong FM1021. As they performed their duties, the agents noticed possible signs of undocumented immigrant traffic in the mud inside the fence line parallelling the highway. The agents following the tracks and came upon numerous feed sacks hidden under the brush. Agents recognized the sacks as those consistent with those commonly used for smuggling drugs and transported them to the station. The sacks contained 561.5 pounds of marijuana. The marijuana, valued at \$449,200.00, was turned over to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The drug seizures Tuesday bought the total marijuana seized by the Del Rio Sector during October to 4,063.51 pounds, valued at \$3,250,808. During Fiscal Year 2002, Del Rio Sector Agents seized 48,930.532 pounds of marijuana valued at \$39,144,425.

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